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Contents

Employee Spotlight.....	1
Denny McCarthy – Appreciate your Efforts.....	1
Employee News	2
Congratulations Jack Kaufmann!	2
Welcome to VDOF!	2
Leaving VDOF!.....	2
Project Updates	3
Jack Mountain Easement.....	3
News You Can Use	3
Learn More About The New VDOF Website	3
Agency Intranet Tips	3
Last Week.....	4
State Forester	4
Forestland Conservation.....	4
Forest Resource Management	5
Agency Lands	5
State Forest.....	6
State-Owned Lands.....	6
Central Region	6
Eastern Region	6
Western Region	7
Public Information	7

Employee Spotlight

Denny McCarthy – Appreciate your Efforts

- ◆ This message was sent on behalf of the Town of Buchanan from Community Development Director Harry Gleason for Denny McCarthy's assistance with the Arbor Day Celebration in Botetourt County.
 - "On behalf of the Town of Buchanan, I wish to thank you for being part of the Town's Arbor Day celebration.
We appreciate your efforts to help us from the initial planning stages through today's activities. Thank you also for your kind comments during the Program, and for bringing us the Tree City USA recognition supplies.

To complete this year's plantings, the Town will be planting 14 trees on the Town Park which we hope will last for generations of Town residents and visitors.

Thank you again for your support, we look forward to working with you and others in the Virginia Department of Forestry on future plantings."

Employee News

Congratulations Jack Kauffmann!

- ◆ Jack Kauffman (forester specialist) has accepted the State Forest / State-Owned Lands Forester Position and will be the forester overseeing operations on the Paul, Whitney, Lesesne, First Mountain, Devil's Backbone, and Conway Robinson State Forests as well as assisting on State-Owned Lands Management, Good Neighbor Authority Projects, and development of contractors and projects for VDOF's Hardwood Forest Habitat Initiative on State Forests and State-Owned Lands starting May 25.

Welcome to VDOF!

- ◆ Western Region welcomes Emily Wotton to our Headwaters work area as Forest Technician on May 25. Emily has a bachelor's degree in wildlife ecology from the University of Maine. She has a variety of natural resources work experience including working with the USDA Forest Service (USFS) on a prescribed fire crew in Texas. She has completed basic fire training including ICS 100, L180, S130, S190 and is currently red carded. Her arrival completes the four member Headwaters team that went through spring fire season with just two full-time employees!
- ◆ Alanna Ostrowski will be joining the Capital team as a Forest Technician on May 25. Alanna comes to VDOF with experience with Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) State Parks and managing AmeriCorps volunteers across eastern Virginia. Alanna previously served with the U.S. Air Force and has a degree in environmental studies from the American Military University.
- ◆ The Blackwater work area will be welcoming Evan Richardson as their new Area Forester on May 25. Evan graduated from the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point with a degree in forestry management this May. He also brings forest management experience working for the Douglas County Forestry Department in Wisconsin.
- ◆ We would like to welcome Rani Rahate to the VDOF family as Jr. Database Analyst. Rani has a bachelor's degree in physics and a master's degree in computer application from Shivaji University, Kolhapur, India. She comes from HCL America, Richmond and has experience with computer software development and maintenance. She will join the IT team in supporting IFRIS and other agency applications on May 25.

Leaving VDOF!

- ◆ Zachary Long (Jefferson work area forest technician) is resigning his position on June 2 to pursue a new opportunity. Best of luck on your new adventure.

Project Updates

Jack Mountain Easement

- ◆ The Forestland Conservation Program is happy to announce that it has closed on VDOF's 201st Open Space Easement property and first easement for 2021 – a 1,658-acre property in Highland County. (Pictured) The acquisition of the easement was supported by the USFS Forest Legacy Program and the Virginia Land Conservation Fund.
- ◆ Jack Mountain is the twelfth highest peak in Virginia and the third highest in Highland County. The easement protects two mountaintop areas from development, 1,600 acres of working forest from conversion (including a population of red spruce), the water quality of the Upper James watershed, and even a population of the unusual spotted skunk!
- ◆ Please visit the Forestland Conservation Program's interactive, online [ArcGIS map](#) to see this easement alongside VDOF's other easements, State Forests, Century Forests, and Forest Legacy Projects.
- ◆ Thank you to all staff that helped with this long relay race of a project, especially Clint Folks (natural resource specialist) for preparing the Forest Stewardship Plan, Jackie Newton (staff accountant) for assisting with the grants, and Andrew Fotinos (forest conservation specialist) for his shepherding capabilities, persistence, and dedication to this complex project!



News You Can Use

Learn More About The New VDOF Website

- ◆ [Resource Library](#)
 - The Resource Library can be accessed by clicking on Resource Library in the menu in the upper right or in the footer at the bottom of the page. The Resource Library holds a variety of items, such as publications, documents, presentations, templates, forms, policies and procedures, Story Maps, news releases, videos, and more, which are available to the public.
 - When accessing the main Resource Library, narrow your search by selecting a category, tag, or media type, OR enter words in the Resource Library Search box. The library view on the bottom of various web pages shows a view of Resource Library items prefiltered to the appropriate subject.
 - You can click view to view or download the item, you can also right-click on the View button to copy the link address if you'd like to send the link to someone.
- ◆ [Agency Directory](#)
 - ◆ For all new employees, the supervisor or manager will need to submit a completed [Form 9.3 Internet User Account/Website Directory Listing Request](#) (on the new employee intranet so you must be logged in to access this form) in order to enter them into the agency directory and set up Intranet access. The form will be sent to ifrishelp@dof.virginia.gov. This request will be used to create a user account for the employee to access the new Intranet as well as add them to the agency directory. Be sure to complete in full so this person may be added to the directory.

Agency Intranet Tips

The agency Intranet is no longer separate from the VDOF website but is connected to the VDOF website and is accessible through the Employee Login.

- ◆ Login to the Intranet – you only need to login to access Employee-Only materials.
 - If you haven't done so already, please login to the new Intranet located on the website. Go to www.dof.virginia.gov and click Employee Login. Your username is your full email address and you all should have received an email from "wordpress@dof.virginia.gov" with your login information. If you have not seen this email, please **check your SPAM folder**. If you do not find this email, you can click Employee Login, then click "Forget your password? Click here" and enter your full email address. This will send an email to you with a link to allow you to reset your password. The system will offer a strong system password, but you can enter in your own strong password. Once reset, you can login with your new password.
- ◆ [Policy and Procedure, Forms](#)
 - Policy and procedure, and forms are available on the new Intranet. Simply go to www.dof.virginia.gov, click Employee Login, login with your Employee Access Intranet login. Once logged into the Employee Access Intranet, click Policy/Procedure & Forms on the left side of the upper menu bar, then click on Policy and Procedure or Forms options.
 - **Note:** The Intranet Access to forms shows all VDOF forms (<https://dof.virginia.gov/employee-access/employee-forms/>); the forms page of the public website only shows the forms available for the public (<https://dof.virginia.gov/forms/>).
- ◆ [Employee Resource Library](#)
 - The Employee Resource Library shows all resources available to employees.

Last Week

State Forester

- ◆ Rob Farrell participated in the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act Regulatory Stakeholder Advisory Group meeting hosted by Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), primarily to provide feedback regarding the definition of the term "Mature Tree" as it relates to Riparian Protection Areas. While the definition seems intuitively obvious, there is no scientific or technical definition that we could find to support the intended use of the term in the regulations.

Forestland Conservation

- ◆ Lara Johnson (urban & community forestry [U&CF] program manager) and Molly O'Liddy (U&CF partnership coordinator) joined the Capital Area Team and Bryant Bays (regional forester) to take inventory of the trees and forest conditions in Woodland Cemetery. Eli Podyma (community forester) is using the data collected to compose an urban forest management plan for the site.
- ◆ Lara Johnson, Molly O'Liddy, and Joe Lehnen (urban wood utilization forester) led a multi-state conference call to discuss planning for the virtual Urban Wood Forum to be hosted the first week of August. The forum is made possible by a USFS grant co-held by Virginia, Florida, North Carolina, Georgia, Mississippi, and Oklahoma.
- ◆ Molly O'Liddy, Meghan Mulroy-Goldman (community forester) and Jim McGlone (urban forest specialist), participated in week 7 of the I-Tree Academy hosted by the USFS and Davey Tree Experts. Students learned more about the I-Tree Eco platform and how to combine other tools within the I-Tree suite.
- ◆ Molly O'Liddy and Lara Johnson participated in a Trees Virginia board meeting to discuss committee updates.

Forest Resource Management

- ◆ On May 13, Nutriens Solutions and Virginia Cooperative Extension hosted the 12th Annual Vegetation Management Workshop, with a virtual attendance of 225. This is an important training event and also meets the requirements for Certified Pesticide Applicators recertification through the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS). Topics included pesticide safety, weather and climate, updates on herbicide chemistry, and invasive insects. Jerre Creighton (VDOF research program manager) made a presentation on Virginia's Hardwood Habitat Management Initiative and management of competing hardwood in loblolly pine stands. Approximately 30 VDOF personnel attended the session.
- ◆ Lori Chamberlin (forest health manager) demonstrated spotted lanternfly trapping procedures for several landowners and natural resources managers in Albemarle County. Spotted lanternfly traps are placed on tree-of-heaven in the spring, and checked every two weeks until the fall. VDOF forest health staff will place traps in high-risk areas in central Virginia.
- ◆ Todd Groh (forest resource management program manager) and Dean Cumbia (director of forest resource management) both prepared articles for an upcoming issue of *Virginia Forests*, the quarterly magazine of the Virginia Forestry Association. Both articles focus on guiding newer forest landowners through the process of intentional forest management, along the "Learn, Plan, Act" theme. First, learn about forests and management, and identify objectives; next, develop a plan with assistance of a professional forester; then take actions to implement the plan. Assistance programs can help with the action. Todd's article discusses more specific programs available through the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), while Dean's uses the Reforestation of Timberlands (RT) program as an example of a program to assist with active forest management.

Agency Lands

- ◆ Along with our research partners from the Virginia Tech Forest Modeling Research Cooperative and the University of Georgia Wood Quality Consortium, we completed sample harvesting of 105 mature (age 28-30) loblolly pine sawtimber trees from five of our thinning study locations at Appomattox-Buckingham State Forest. At each location, seven trees were cut from each of the three thinning treatment plots (no thin, light thin, and heavy thin plus pruning of the first log). An array of metrics (stem / log lengths and diameters, branch heights and diameters, etc.) were recorded for each and the trees were then cut into as many eight-foot logs as possible. A total of 260 logs were produced and barcoded so all lumber from them can be accurately tracked. Those logs will be shipped to the Arbortech mill in Blackstone this week where they will be cut into lumber, and the resulting boards will then go on to Athens, Georgia to be tested for wood quality and lumber value. The ultimate goal is to quantify the differences (if any) in sawtimber value of the trees under the different thinning regimes. A huge thank you to Mike Womack for his help with clearing landing areas for the sample trees and transferring the logs to the staging field at the ABSF shop. In the first photo, Dr. John Scrivani (VDOF), Dr. Joe Dahlen (UGA) and Dr. Corey Green (VT - back to camera) are measuring branch parameters on sample trees. The second photo shows all of the sample logs (with barcodes visible).



- ◆ Garland Gray Forestry Center (GGFC) completed the majority of their container sowing last week. There were 420,000 loblolly seeds sown and approximately 240,000 North Carolina Longleaf sown. The bareroot crop has been sprayed with pre-emergent herbicide.

State Forest

- ◆ Timber Sale on the Prince Edward-Gallion State Forest on May 12 attracted two bidders for approximately 1,237.40 MBF of mostly pine sawtimber on 73.7 acres bringing \$195,000

State-Owned Lands

- ◆ Ed Stoots was recently appointed by USDA Secretary Vilsak to the Virginia Resource Advisory Committee (RAC). The RAC's were established in compliance with the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act of 2000, as amended by Public Law 116-94. The RAC was established to improve collaborative relationships between USFS and the local communities; and to provide advice and recommendations concerning projects proposed for funding under Title II of the Act. The appointment is for four years.

Central Region

- ◆ Justin Barnes (deputy regional forester) and Robbie Talbert (regional forester) met with forester Joe Boswell and Chief Ranger Josh Deal with the Army Corps of Engineers at John W. Kerr Reservoir in Mecklenburg County to discuss hardwood management, potential demonstration sites, and the Corp's interest in the Hardwood Initiative. The Army Corps of Engineers actively manages over 50,000 acres of forestland surrounding the reservoir for timber management, wildlife habitat, recreation, water quality and other environmental benefits. VDOF and the Corp have long been partners in protecting and managing these lands for the benefit of the general public.

Eastern Region

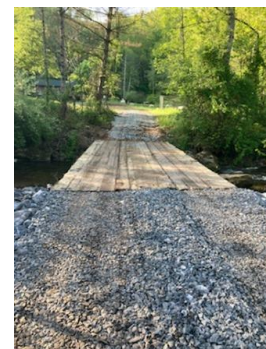
- ◆ Secretary of Agricultural & Forestry Bettina Ring and Bryant Bays (eastern regional forester) attended a Groundcover Restoration Symposium hosted by the Longleaf Pine Alliance and landowner Bill Owen in Petersburg. Other attendees, all members of Virginia's Longleaf Pine Implementation team, included Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), Department Wildlife Resources (DWR), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Old Dominion University (ODU), and Meadowview Biological Research Station (MBRS). Following a brief training by President of the Longleaf Alliance Carol Denhof, the group collectively worked through problems and opportunities for implementing good longleaf restoration projects in southeast Virginia. One positive outcome was the agreement among the group that working closely together and sharing information provides the best chance of continued success with longleaf restoration work in Virginia.
- ◆ Peninsula Master Naturalist, York County Master Gardener, and Project Learning Tree Outstanding Educator Barb Dunbar organized and conducted a memorial planting of eastern redbuds at the York County Waste Management Center in honor of Page Hutchinson. Lisa Deaton (area forester) assisted with planting the trees. Local school staff, parent-volunteers, Master Naturalists, and public works staff also participated in the ceremony. Barb hopes that others will be inspired to plant "Page's Trees" throughout Virginia. She has written a lesson plan to support these plantings. (Pictured)



- ◆ Students in Environmental Studies at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown went to Saxis and Sanford on the Eastern Shore to study marsh migration, "ghost forests", and species composition and change. Plots were taken in several transects involving open marsh, woodland/marsh interface, and pine/mixed hardwood woodland just in from the marsh. Robbie Lewis (senior area forester) assisted with collecting data in the plots and identifying tree species.

Western Region

- ◆ Justin Shanks (WestRock forester) shared these pictures with Patti Nylander (senior area forester). They show an excellent stream crossing using bridge panels purchased with funding from the Joint Chiefs – Lower Cowpasture Watershed Project. These bridge panels are stored at WestRock's Covington facility and are available at no charge to any logger in the project area simply by contacting a VDOF representative in our Mountain Valley Area.



Public Information

- ◆ Ellen Powell (conservation education coordinator) participated in National Project Learning Tree's (PLT) two-day e-Summit. She presented PLT's Gold Star Award posthumously to Page Hutchinson. (Page also received another posthumous award this week: a Lifetime Achievement Award from [York River and Small Coastal Basin Roundtable](#).)
- ◆ Ellen Powell met with Bonnie Mahl of Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (VASWCD) to complete plans for the Virginia Academy of Natural Resources, a virtual "camp" collaboration scheduled for July.